

5 A private network firewall **225** is treated as if it
were a media gateway network entity. Doing so allows a
media gateway controller **205** to exchange messages with the
firewall **225** for purposes of securely setting up and
tearing down pinholes in the firewall. With this ability
10 comes the ability to provide secure VoIP calls between
public **250** and private **220** networks. A call server, or
media gateway controller **205**, that is approving the VoIP
communication stream in a private packet data network
requests, via a secure tunnel **230**, that the firewall **225**
15 open a pinhole filter for a specific source and destination
address pair corresponding to media gateway endpoints, **210**
and **260** respectively, using either MGCP (H.248) or COPS
messages, for instance. The pinhole filter is then
disabled when the session is complete.